

Virginia Emergency Operations Center  
Hurricane Ophelia  
Situation Report #1

Operational Period 0700 Hours September 11, 2005 to 0700 Hours September 12, 2005

**SITUATION:**

Hurricane Ophelia is projected to impact the Commonwealth beginning early Wednesday morning and ending as late as Thursday morning with tropical force winds and significant rainfall.

**WEATHER:**

From the National Hurricane Center: Since early Sunday morning Hurricane Ophelia has shifted slightly to the south as part of a clockwise loop that has the storm moving to the west. This keeps the storm at a point off of the Outer Banks. Concurrently, winds weakened to 78 mph winds, but Ophelia remains a Category 1 Hurricane. Little weakening is predicted during the next 24 hours as it resumes a north by northeast track.

The eye of the storm is currently tracking off the Outer Banks and is expected to stay off of the Virginia Coastline. Due to the storm's lack of movement, the National Weather Service models are subject to significant alteration such that current predictions can shift up to 200 nautical miles. However, since it is moving to the west wind impact models have also shifted as far west as a line from Brunswick County to Northumberland County.

The best track estimate has the western edge of the storm entering the Commonwealth early Wednesday. In this scenario up to 3" of rain could fall along and east of the above-mentioned western line. This area would experience Tropical Force winds. There is currently a low, but not non-existent, threat of tornadoes due to the projection of the northwest quadrant passing over Virginia. Flooding should be minor except for low-lying urban areas. The storm surge is predicted to be a maximum of 2' above normal high tide. Beach erosion is expected.

**VIRGINIA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER STATUS:**

The VEOC is at Hurricane Readiness Condition 4.

**ONGOING STATE ACTIVITIES:**

- **Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM/VEOC)**
  - Monitoring the forecast of Hurricane Ophelia.
  - Staffing EOC and coordinating VERT response.
  - Monitoring North Carolina response activities.
  - Assessing availability of resources.
  - Communications with localities, state agencies, and other crucial response organizations emphasizing preparatory actions.
- **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)**
  - Reviewing hurricane preparedness checklists with emphasis on the Hampton Roads area.

- **Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR)**
  - Monitoring eastern facilities, if need be will evacuate.
- **Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)**
  - Monitoring Hurricane Ophelia. No evacuation of facilities anticipated.
- **Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)**
  - Despite deployment and other in-state response activities (Dismal Swamp Fire), the use of part-time personnel to augment the staff has meant that resources are deemed adequate to continue Hurricane Katrina response, fire suppression activity, and Hurricane Ophelia response if necessary.
  - Commodity staging areas are being established for quick response to projected impact areas.
- **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**
  - Staff alerted and on stand-by.
- **Virginia National Guard (VNG)**
  - Personnel on stand-by.

#### **CONTIGUOUS STATE'S ACTIONS:**

- **NC Situation:** NC EOC – NC Governor declared a State of Emergency. State EOC in Raleigh continuing 24-hour operations.

#### **LOCAL ACTIONS:**

- Monitoring Hurricane Ophelia.

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

#### **PROJECTED FUTURE ACTIONS:**

- Preparation of Executive Order for Emergency Declaration.
- Develop Public Affairs Strategy for addressing expectations for response and recovery as part of a preparatory message.
- Prepare for Emergency Response Team – Advance (ERT-A) from FEMA Region 3.
- Further augmentation of VEOC and expansion within Virginia State Police Academy.
- Re-check Stand-by Emergency Contracts and Mutual Aid Agreements for implementation.
- Coordinate with power providers.
- Develop Incident Action Plan (IAP).

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